

for the drawdown of troops in Vietnam and, to the delight of many, he suspended the military draft.

But for us in Wisconsin, Mel Laird was our Congressman, a young man who was elected at 30 years old and served from 1953 to 1969 until he went to the Secretary of Defense position.

When I was running for Congress in the late spring, my phone rang, and on the other end this guy says: Hello, Mel Laird here. Could I speak with SEAN DUFFY?

Well, Mel Laird is larger than life in Wisconsin, a guy from Marshfield. I nearly dropped the phone to think that the great Mel Laird would give me a call. He knew everyone and every issue in Wisconsin at the ripe old age of 90.

He passed away yesterday. With a heavy heart, we mourn his passing. I would just like to say, he was a man that President Ford said was the can-do conservative from Wisconsin. He was a patriot more than a partisan, so much so that he was the mentor of Colin Powell. And to the friends he had on both sides of the aisle, they would be tickled to know that Hillary Clinton once interned for him. In true Wisconsin fashion, when I won the seat that he had formerly held, he sent me a Wisconsin block of cheddar cheese.

So, today, with a heavy heart, I want to extend my condolences to the family of Mel Laird, thank him and his family for his service, and may his soul rest in peace.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF TOM WEISNER

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Tom Weisner, the mayor of Aurora, Illinois. He served as the mayor for a decade, and for many years before that as a dedicated public servant and a friend to our district and our community.

Before he entered public service, Tom and his wife, Marilyn, served as Peace Corps volunteers. Since then, Tom has served the city with passion, commitment, competence, and dedication. Public service is more than just a job to him; it is a calling. He cares for others in his community like an extended family, and Aurora is a better place because of it.

Whether it is the safety of rail cars passing through the city or concerns about gun violence, Tom speaks from the heart about issues that matter to our community and to our country. He does this because, to him, our community is his family.

Unfortunately, in the face of his longstanding battle with cancer, Mayor Tom Weisner stepped down at the end of last month. We will all miss his leadership and dedication to our community and wish him well.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO NORTHWEST ADVANCED RENEWABLES ALLIANCE

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance for their efforts to use the world's first renewable jet fuel made from timber harvest residuals on a commercial flight from Seattle to Washington, D.C., this last Monday, November 14.

NARA is a diverse coalition consisting of Washington State University, University of Washington, Alaska Airlines, Boeing, Weyerhaeuser, the U.S. Forest Service, and many other partners. Their goal was to create a sustainable aviation biofuel, increase bioenergy literacy, and advance rural economic development.

This achievement of fueling a cross-country flight entirely on wood products is a great testament to the cooperation, innovation, and hard work of the NARA members. Moreover, it demonstrates the forward-thinking commitment to an all-of-the-above energy strategy that the Pacific Northwest is renowned for. Again, congratulations to NARA and their members on this amazing achievement.

#### AMERICAN FOOD FOR AMERICAN SCHOOLS

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, is there anybody among us here who does not believe our children ought to have nutritious, safe food in the schools, in the school nutrition program? I think we all do. However, you may not know that back home in your school districts that your school is using your taxpayer money to buy food grown in China or someplace else in the world. Is it safe? Maybe yes. Maybe no. You don't know.

We are going to introduce a bill here, and I would seek the support of all the Members here. We call it American Food for American Schools. Why not? Why not American food in the school nutrition programs, the lunch programs? In our own area in Sacramento, California, the school district there decided they ought to buy Chinese peaches, yet the biggest peach-growing place in all the United States is the Sacramento region.

Let's do that. Let's make sure that our students have nutritious, safe, American-grown food. So American Food for American Schools. Seek your attention to this; seek your support on this. I am quite sure the American public and parents and students would say: yeah, right on.

#### NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate hospitals in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District for being recognized by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health. This year, 32 hospitals in Pennsylvania reached top quartile performance status in quality, outcomes, patient satisfaction, and financial strength compared to all acute care hospitals in the nation.

Now, I am proud to represent seven of these outstanding health facilities, including Kane Community Hospital, Lock Haven Hospital, Corry Memorial Hospital, Penn Highlands DuBois, Warren General Hospital, and UPMC Northwest.

In light of these and the many other tremendous accomplishments that have been achieved in rural health care this year, I am honored to join with key stakeholders across the United States to celebrate National Rural Health Day.

It is no secret that healthcare providers in underserved areas play a vital role in maintaining and safeguarding the health of millions of Americans. Due to my previous experience as a healthcare provider, I have nothing but the deepest respect and admiration for those who work to enhance the quality of healthcare services in rural communities.

Congratulations again to the rural healthcare providers in Pennsylvania for their tremendous work. Thank you for your service.

#### I STAND WITH THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stand with the Standing Rock Sioux in peace and prayer to halt the desecration of their sacred sites and clean water source.

This month, an independent review concluded that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' original assessment of the pipeline underestimated the risk of a spill exposing tribal lands to grave risk.

Just this week, the Corps announced they will delay an easement for construction of the pipeline on Corps land under and around Lake Oahe until they conduct further environmental reviews with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Further study and a possible reroute of the pipeline is a welcomed idea.

But construction continues, and there has been no final decision that could conclusively halt the pipeline and protect tribal sacred sites. This could be devastating.

The government must take action to uphold our Federal trust responsibility to protect tribal treaties, land, and resources. They must meaningfully consult with the Standing Rock Sioux and all tribes before developing on or near